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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/997,084  
Applicant : Konishi et al.  
Filed : 28 November 2001  
TC/A.U. : 2879  
Examiner : Holly Harper

Confirmation No. 6101

Docket No. : 3688ME-30  
Customer No. : 22442

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</p> <p>I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA VA 22313-1450 ON OCTOBER 18, 2004.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.</p> <p>BY: <u>Clarence R. Roubert</u></p>
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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Sir,

This Amendment and Response is filed in reply to the Office Action mailed 17 June 2004. A request for a one month extension of time to extend the time for response from 17 September 2004 to 17 October 2004 is being submitted herewith, along with the requisite fee. Please debit any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: